

These Days

# A Private Freedom Academy

By John Chamberlain

BACK IN 1960 the U.S. Senate, by a voice vote, passed a bill authorizing the creation of a Freedom Academy. The idea was to set up a school capable of turning out professionals in psycho-political warfare just as West Point and Annapolis provide the country with pros in military warfare. But the bill failed in the House for a very odd reason: Rep. Francis Walter, an anti-Communist from the word "go," was obsessed with the fear that if a Freedom Academy were set up, the Communists would succeed in penetrating it and taking it over. "Tad" Walter's spy phobia was sufficiently persuasive to kill the bill for 1960.

The Freedom Academy has never had a chance since then, but the locus of prime opposition to it has shifted to the Senate. In 1961 Sen. Fulbright succeeded in bringing Freedom Academy suggestions within the jurisdiction of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and thus a Freedom Academy bill never seems to get to the Senate floor.

This in spite of the fact that the idea has had bipartisan support from Senators as diverse as Democrats Paul Douglas of Illinois and Tom Dodd of Connecticut and Republican Karl Mundt of South Dakota.

The House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities has recommended the passage of a Freedom Academy bill in 1966, but with anti-Cold Warrior Fulbright still on guard in the Senate nothing is likely to come of it.

WELL, maybe one shouldn't cry too much about this, for if a Freedom Academy were to be created as a Government entity the U.S. State Department might try to subordinate its curriculum to the needs of official foreign policy. A Government-sponsored Freedom Academy would certainly have to be hedged about with all sorts of guarantees of absolute autonomy, or it would tend to become a milk-and-water affair.

What, for example, would happen to a Freedom Academy "psywar" recommendation that we sell landing craft to Chiang Kai-shek when our State Department fears even an indirect confrontation with Red China? And what if a Freedom Academy were to counsel an embargo on grain shipments to any Communist nation that is helping the Vietcong? This would run counter to our official "bridge-building" policy, and the curriculum builders of a Freedom Academy would surely hear a thing or two from Foggy Bottom about interfering with the "national purpose."

But if the possibility of getting an absolutely autonomous Government-sponsored Freedom Academy seems remote, it doesn't mean that we can get along without a method of countering the 6000 schools in Communist bloc countries that teach psycho-political warfare.

Fortunately, our deficiency in this matter is about to be remedied. A big complex of cooperating agencies, including the American Security Council, the American Legion, the Cook County (Illinois) Schools, Northeastern University, Kansas State University, International House, the Oregon State Department of Education, and the C. W. Post College of Long Island University have purchased a large house and

671 acres near Boston, Va., where a private Freedom Academy called the Freedom Studies Center will be set up. The Institute for American Strategy will administer the new center.

THE NEW Freedom Studies Center is a citizens' response to frustrations created in the U.S. Senate by anti-Cold Warrior Fulbright. Significantly, the co-chairmen of the Center are Sens. Dodd of Connecticut and Mundt of South Dakota. Other Senators on the advisory board are Peter Dominick, Republican of Colorado, Jack Miller, Republican of Iowa, Paul Douglas, Democrat of Illinois, and William Proxmire, Democrat of Wisconsin.

Sen. Tom Dodd, who holds the Freedom Academy idea close to his heart, has been extremely effective in upholding the American position in the Cold War, and it is not surprising that he is hated by the "don't be beastly to the Communists" crowd. This group welcomes any effort to chop him down.

But the recent attempt to give a sinister twist to his correspondence with Gen. Julius Klein, a quite legitimate representative of West German industry and the West German government, has backfired. It turns out that some 20 other legislators including Sen. Javits have also praised Klein for competence and probity. The big concern in U.S. Senate anterooms these days is the safety of the legislators' files, for someone obviously got to Dodd's without his permission.

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Org: Freedom Academy  
Org: Institute for American Strategy*